

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



FISCAL NOTE

HB 1786 - SB 2088

February 10, 2014

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires the Department and Labor and Workforce Development (DLWD), the Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC), upon receiving a claim for workers' compensation totaling less than \$5,000 from an unrepresented person, to refer such unrepresented person to the ombudsman. Requires the ombudsman to assist and advise the unrepresented person, except for legal advice. Establishes several new authorities for the ombudsman related to assistance to any unrepresented person. Prohibits the ombudsman from testifying in any workers' compensation proceeding. Modifies procedure for appointing new individuals to the workers' compensation appeals board when replacements are required such that the Speaker of the Senate appoints the first vacancy, the Speaker of the House of Representatives appoints the second vacancy, and the Governor appoints the third vacancy, and thereafter, the authority for appointing members will rotate among the Speakers and Governor.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions:

- According to the Office of Legal Services (OLS), this bill will have no significant impact upon the office.
- Based on the information provided by the Division of Workers Compensation, any fiscal impact to the Division or the Department of Labor and Workforce Development is considered not significant.

IMPACT TO COMMERCE:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

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Assumption:

- Requiring DLWD to refer unrepresented persons to the ombudsman, authorizing the ombudsman to assist and advise any unrepresented persons, and modifying the procedure to appoint new members to the workers' compensation appeals board is not expected to impact commerce or the number of Tennessee jobs.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lucian D. Geise', written in a cursive style.

Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

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